



MINUTES
COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES
City Hall, 5th Floor Large Conference Room
3900 Main Street
Riverside, CA 92522
January 8, 2007 at 6:00pm

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Commission on Disabilities is to promote greater awareness of, respect for, and the total participation of individuals with disabilities into all aspects of life.

1. **Call to Order:** 6:00 p.m.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance:** Paul Van Doren
3. **Roll Call:** Chairperson Paul Van Doren, Vice-Chair Terry Gregersen, Dickey DeLoss, James Stream, Gene Brosious, Suzanne Puffer, Gigi Welch, Linda Garcia, Debbie Keller, Lesley Robinson

Absent: Ed Rush (excused)

Also present were General Services Director Kris Martinez, Deputy City Attorney Neil Okazaki, ADA Coordinator Monique Gordon and Kim Cantrell from the California Foundation for Independent Living Centers (CFILC).

4. **Minutes:** Minutes for the meeting of December 11, 2006
M/S DeLoss/Keller and unanimous to approve the December 11, 2007 minutes as presented.

AYES – 7; NOES- 0; ABSTAIN – 3 (Van Doren, Brosious, Stream); ABSENT – 1 (Rush).

5. Introductions and Public Comment

This is an opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on any subject matter that is within the Commission's jurisdiction.

6. Old Business

A. Discussion of Commission Workplan Items for 2007

The Commission streamlined the 2007 Workplan. Staff categorized as noted below:

Community Outreach/Marketing/Public Awareness	Transportation	Housing	Proposed Next Steps
Shorter Term Projects			
Police Department interaction with the disabled community			Meet with Police Department on specific issues
Monitoring legislation effecting the disabled			Subscriptions to websites concerning disability legislation
Interaction with the Community (Channel 32 notes concerning COD items)			
Receiving an early alert about City Council items having disability issues			Follow City Council Perpetual Agenda
Improvement of COD website			Photos of COD with bios. Also see notes from website designer
Visibility with City Council			
Longer Term Projects			
Accessible recreation facilities	Transportation	Affordable housing improvements	
Development of a disability access guide			

The COD requested that staff arrange for a Police Department representative to attend the next meeting. The COD is concerned about how Officers are trained to interact with the disabled community.

Deputy City Attorney Neil Okazaki noted that he would invite the Police Department and request that they give an overview on what their current procedure is concerning interaction with the disabled community.

7. The following website links will be added to the COD website:

- A. Government websites concerning disabled issues:
1. Federal Transportation Authority: www.fta.dot.gov
 2. U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission: www.eeoc.gov
 3. U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Disability Rights and Resources: www.hud.gov
 4. National Council on Disability – www.ncd.gov
 5. The federal government's one-stop Web site for information of interest to people with disabilities - www.disabilityinfo.gov
 6. ADA and IT Technical Assistance Centers, also known as Disability and Business Technical Assistance Centers – www.dbtac.vcu.edu

The COD agreed that 501C3 organizations should be included on the website along with government website links.

- B. Community Action Partnership-Linda Garcia submitted information packets from the Community Action Partnership of Riverside County. Packets include:
1. Action Gram newsletter for Fall, 2006 (Volume 26, Issue 3)
 2. Events Calendar for November 2006 through March 2007
 3. Information concerning IE.IDA - a savings incentive program

Commission member Garcia summarized the Community Action Partnership events calendar for November 2006 through March 2007. She noted that the mission of Community Action Partnership was to end poverty and enable low income citizens to be financially independent.

- C. Current City Council Perpetual Calendar – A look at upcoming City Council Agenda items:
1. January 9, 2007 Discussion Calendar – Senior Housing Task Force Report
 2. January 16, 2007 Discussion Calendar – Neighborhood Livability

Noted by the Commission.

- D. Discussion on COD Brochure Development

Updated information will be provided when available.

- E. Distribution of Certificates of Completion for The Brown Act training course

Certificates were distributed to Commission members in their agenda packets.

- F. International Day of Disabled Persons 2006 was December 3, 2006. Discussion on E-Accessibility – Information Only: www.un.org

Noted by the Commission.

- G. Presentation from the Office of Patient Advocate concerning Health Care Rights for people with disabilities (20 minutes)

This item was heard out of order and moved to the beginning of the agenda.

Ms. Kim Kantrell distributed information concerning the California Foundation for Independent Living Centers (CFILC). She noted the following:

- CFILC is a grass roots organization and is also a network about disability resources.
- Systems Change Network is in partnership with CFILC and they need help with Community Outreach.
- Health care rights
 - Disabled health care needs are delayed partially because rights are unknown.
 - The myth is that there is a \$2,000 cap on durable medical equipment coverage, but in reality there are currently no caps.
 - Rights of the disabled are noted below (limited list):
 - Health information in accessible formats
 - Interpreter services
 - Removal of physical barriers to medical offices
 - Various durable equipment is covered (i.e. hearing aids)
 - Service Animals may attend with disabled patients
 - Provision of emergency room treatment is required by medical facilities regardless of the disabled ability to pay
 - Care for pre-existing conditions
 - Group insurance by employer including specialists and second opinions
 - Appeal
- HMO Guides
- Order forms for more materials on CFILC
- Pending legislation concerning health care bills and medical payments
- The Year of Health Care – the goal is for more disabled to have healthcare and not be eliminated due to pre-existing conditions.

COD returned to regular agenda at 6:45 pm.

8. Items for future Commission Consideration

This is an opportunity for Commissioners to reference any items that arise during the meeting but are not a part of the meeting agenda.

In response to Commission DeLoss' question concerning how the disabled could apply for City of Riverside jobs if they had no computer, the Human Resources Department has responded that computers are available in the Human Resources lobby for public use. If someone from the public required assistance, a staff member from the Recruitment Division would assist with the employment application.

8. Adjournment: 7:25 pm

M/S Robinson/Deloss and unanimous to adjourn the COD meeting at 7:25 pm.

AYES – 7; NOES- 0; ABSTAIN – 3 (Van Doren, Brosious, Stream); ABSENT – 1 (Rush).

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